

## HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 20 NO. 3

MAY - JUN 1989

**A PERSONAL NOTE:** Just a reminder that I don't agree or disagree with opinions of others that are stated in Hello Again.

**REMINISCING:** Bob Burnham commented on double speed dubbing. Most collectors do use this technique with reel recording. Bob's cassette duplicators run at 8 times speed. If and only if the reel and cassette equipment is properly calibrated for the blank tape, there is virtually no loss in quality with radio shows...Also Bob mention that results with Shamrock tape vary greatly because of the various grades sold. Shamrock is Ampex reject tape from all their various types. Certain grades will squeal; some cause no problem...Lee Munsick remembers that the Whistler and His Dog was used as the theme for Sweeney and March when they were morning men in the early 50's on WABC (WJZ) in New York.

**From Vol. I No. 6, September, 1970: New Friends;** An asterisk (\*) means I would like help in locating the people; Helen Connolly\*; Helen is one of 2 female collectors she knows of; John Knipe\*; Chris Lembesis Jr.; Don Pellow\*; Don puts out a newsletter called No Static - Please; Tom Rockey\*; Evan MacBride\*; Bob Welsh\*; Roy Bright; Cam Denencour\*; Cam is very interested in John Charles Thomas; Robert Koch; Rex Bills..Old Friends; Raleigh Barker has about 2200 records...Bill Blalock warns of the ends of cheaper tapes. Let the tape run a few times before taping. Always use lubricated tape.

**From Vol. I No. 7, October, 1970:** Several traders wish each trader would be as detailed as possible in listing their programs so duplications don't occur. I have found the following are necessary: the series, title of program, date, guests, sponsor, network. (Today, many dealers and traders list many of their series in chronological order.)...Al Denson, former vice president of WNBC, says, "All tape, no matter what make or substance, is sandpaper. If you want to save wear on your tape heads, don't use your machine. Tape should last forever if kept in a closed box and in a dry room. All tapes should be rewound at least once every 6 months."...Don Brush has a "Scotch" brand tape from 1952 in perfect condition (18 years)...Always spot check dubbed tapes before sending them out in case one of your machines is faulty. Traders or buyers of tapes should tell the sender of any problems. We would expect the same treatment when sending out tapes. All of us make mistakes...In order to save patch cord connections, especially if you pull them in and out often, buy a pair of short ones and insert them in one machine. Insert your regular patch cords in the other machine and leave them there. Put the other ends in the short cords. **New Friends:** Warren Abbott (chief engineer with CBS); Lewis Crispell\*; Rosa Rio (organist for many radio shows. (Today Rosa keeps a full schedule of teaching and concerts); Ronald Tilton\* has 1600 shows; Ernie Hack\*; Joe Hehn\* has one of the largest collections of OTR shows and premiums; Hal Brodsky\* specializes in detective and mystery shows...Old Friends: Bill Blalock is an excellent artist and has done impressions of radio personalities; Don Brush's mother was Bud Collyer's Sunday School teacher; Meade Frierson III is a corporate lawyer and has written a detailed study of science fiction and horror ("Static, Flutter and Pop") which includes complete logs of Dimension X and X - I, one of the first logs to be prepared. Chuck Schaden recently had an interview with Jack Benny.

**COLLECTORS OF THE PAST - UPDATES:** Darrell Anderson, 17254 Lake Desire Dr. - North, Renton, WA 98055 recently retired after 31 years with the post office. Darrell is still active in OTR and belongs to a few clubs.

**CONVENTION '89:** Full details follow: The dates are October 19-21, 1989 at the Holiday Inn North, Newark. It will start on Thursday around 12 noon. Friday will now be a full day with dealers tables running from 9 to about 4:30 and workshops running from 9 to about 5:50. The Saturday hours for dealers will still be 9 to 3; workshops on Saturday will be from 9 to 5:50. Possible re-creations will include The March of Time, Ellery Queen, My Little Margie, My Client Curly or another Norman Corwin show, Gateway to Hollywood and perhaps Archie Andrews. Norman Corwin and Gale Storm will be approached to be two of our west



coast guests. Other tentative new guests are Charlie Mullen (Archie Andrews) and Mary Small. Our theme will be Radio and the War Years. Doris Milberg is thinking of doing a panel on War News with newscasters as guests. George Edwards, in radio for many years, especially with WQXR, has expressed interest in being on the panel. Gary Yoggy is thinking of doing a related workshop of radio during the war years emphasizing its patriotic and propagandistic role. Jack French has offered to do a workshop on radio traitors of WWII. Roger Hill from England has expressed interest in BBC broadcasting during WW II. The Dave Warren players will perform two or three skits. Lee Munsick hopes to do a workshop/panel on Arthur Godfrey. Ron Lackmann may do a workshop on acting in radio. Peg Lynch has expressed interest in doing Ethel and Albert. Raymond Edward Johnson plans to attend and give one of his exciting readings. Larry and John Gassman plan to give a workshop on Jack Benny. Bill Nadel will do an Ellery Queen panel.

**Cost for Thursday is \$24** which includes dinner. Choices are **stuffed fillet of sole; London broil; chicken cordon bleu. I must know your choice.** Cost for Friday is \$35 for the entire day and buffet dinner (9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.). Cost for Saturday is the same as last year, \$39, for the entire day and buffet dinner (9 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.). Full cost for all three days is \$98. **Daytime only (9 - 5:30 p.m. for Friday and Saturday) is \$8 for each day (paid in advance); \$10 for each day if paid at the door.** Hotel costs are \$58/62. When you register, let me know hotel details. You will pay for the hotel upon arrival. Dealers tables are still \$35 each for one or two days **plus** registrations fees. Complimentary coffee will be available on Thursday; complimentary coffee and Danish will be available Friday and Saturday. There will be a cash bar Thursday, Friday and Saturday from about 5:50 - 7 p.m with complimentary hors d'oeuvres Friday and Saturday. There will be a \$3 discount for the buffet dinner on Friday and Saturday for those over 62 or under 16.

Capacity for Friday's dinner is 220 so it is important that you send in your reservation as soon as possible. We were filled for Friday last year. Capacity for Saturday's dinner is 400. One major change is the dinner table seating. When you preregister, indicate any people with whom you would like to sit and what night (Friday or Saturday or both). A table number will be on your ticket given to you at the door. Late registrants and those who do not specify seating, will be given table numbers at our discretion. We will do our best to sit you with the people you wish.

We will again have sale of T-shirts, pins and pictures. Different colored Friends of Old-time Radio T-shirts are being made; many large and extra large. We may have books and/or records for sale also. The **raffle** will again be held with drawings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Let us know if you can donate prizes...We will also make one or two donations again to deserving organizations.

All suggestions will be considered. Please send them to me. Also, if you wish to help, run a workshop, etc., please let me know.

**You may send** in your registration as soon as you want. Dealers tables will **not** be held for you unless the money is received in advance. Also your dinner table cannot be guaranteed unless money is received in advance. Make sure you let me know your **dinner choices for Thursday**. Send all registration to Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514.

One major project before the convention is to incorporate and become nonprofit.

**RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL:** Sid Caesar and Ernie Kovacs were among those chosen for induction into the National Association of Broadcaster's Hall of Fame at the annual convention, April 29 - May 2 in Las Vegas...A meeting of legendary morning talk show hosts was held on April 12 at the Museum of Broadcasting in New York. Among those attending were John Gambling (WOR - New York) and Bob Steele (WTIC - Hartford). At the meeting Bob Steele announced that he would be retiring at the end of this year.. **Jim Hickman** recently celebrated his 25th year hosting "The Big Broadcast" on WAMU-FM (88.5) in Washington, DC. Jim broadcasts four hours of OTR every Sunday...**The Players Club**, after 100 years of male membership, has opened its doors to women. Three of the first 30 women members are Lauren Bacall, Helen Hayes and Mary Tyler Moore. The Players Club is an organization in New York of performers, writers and directors including many radio personalities...**Himan Brown** is producing 26 plays for public radio called "We, the Living." Each program dramatizes real people's stories that illus-



trate "The problems and joys of being over 65." "I would like to feel we could do as well as the British do. Do you know how many hours of radio drama the BBC puts on? Close to 800 hours a year," Brown said. "I want people to be entertained. Radio drama is theater, make no mistake about it. And to me, it's the most potent form of theater."...**Al Schaffer**, recently retired as sound effects man on WOR after 42 years, is now sound technician on WNYC-FM (93.9) in New York for a series of 11 new or newly adapted plays for radio in a series called "The Radio Stage." They are on Sundays through July 2nd at 8 P.M...Universal Studios is planning a new theatrical movie featuring the Lone Ranger to be released during Christmas of 1990. Also Palladium Entertainment, the company that owns the copyright o the Lone Ranger, is planning to produce a first run half-hour series version for syndication in the fall of 1990.

**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:** **ORCA Newsletter**, Spring; articles on Henry Morgan and Life with Luigi...**Wavelengths**: This is the official newsletter of WJZ Associates, Box 1585, Haverhill, MA 01831. Send a SASE for a copy and information on this interesting organization...**Old Time Radio Digest**, Mar-Apr; second part of an excellent article about Orson Welles by Gary Yoggy...**SPERDVAC Radiogram**, Apr; article on Boris Aplon and Edward R. Murrow...May; article about Bob LeMond...**Milwaukee Club Newsletter**, April; articles on Raymond Edward Johnson and Inner Sanctum; also H.V.Kaltenborn...**Nostalgia Digest**, Jun - Jul; article on Bob Crosby

**BOOKS AND MAGAZINES:** If you want to know where to get your favorite radio premium you should subscribe to **Box-Top Bonanza Magazine**. It is published 6 times a year by Joel Smilgis, 153 1/2 - 15 Avenue, East Moline, IL 61244. It contains information about all kinds of radio and other related premiums. Cost is \$20 a year...a new book out is **Fred Allen: His Life and Wit** by Robert Taylor, Little, Brown & Company. I haven't seen it yet...A new volume listing close to 1000 books, reports and booklets is **Radio and Television: A Selected Annotated Bibliography, Supplement Two: 1982 - 1986** by Peter K. Pringle and Helen H. Clinton. This book continues where the late William McCavitt left off in 1981. It is published by Scarecrow Press, Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840. This book covers all aspects of radio and television, listing detailed annotations of close to 1000 books and periodicals.

**LOGS:** **Ray Stanich**, 173 Columbia Hts, Brooklyn, NY 11201 has a new and complete **Inner Sanctum** log for \$4.50...**Laura Lee**, 15430 Lost Valley Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46845 has written an excellent 110 - page **Jack Benny** log. It is a complete radio log (complete except for some omissions during the first 3 years) and a complete TV log. Other radio and selected TV programs in which Benny appeared are also listed. It also lists his movies and has a guest index for his radio and TV shows. It also mentions books and periodicals with information about Benny. Much of the information is from the files of George Balzer. Cost is \$15.

**ORGANIZATIONS AND CONVENTIONS:** The American Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, New York, presented a tribute to movie serials with panels on April 21 and 22. On the panels were Kirk Alyn, Kay Aldridge, Henry Brandon, Tom Steele and historians Alan Barbour, William K. Everson and Ray Schnitzer...**The Society of Singers** is an organization that helps those singers who are not doing well financially. On the board are such singers as Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and Bea Wain. If you would like information on how to support it contact them at 1741 North Ivar Ave, Suite 118, Hollywood, CA 90028 or 121 W 27th St., Suite 701, NYC, NY 10001...**Barry Hill** is the chairman of The Old-time Radio Show Collector's Association in England (ORCA). He is editor of its newsletter which is published periodically. If you want more information about this organization and OTR in England contact Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 or you can write to Barry Hill directly at 4 Prospect Terrace, Farsley, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England LS28 5ES...**Don Maris** is running the Big-D Super Collectibles Show on Jul 21-23, 1989 at the Sheraton Park Central in Dallas, Texas. For dealer and registration information write Don at Box 111266, Arlington, TX 76007 (817) 261-8745. This convention has Toys, Disneyana, radio, box-top and TV premiums, movie posters, comics, dolls, toy soldiers, western collectibles and more. Don also has a catalog of many of these



items for sale.

Karen and I attended the Emerson Radio Hall of Fame second Annual Induction Ceremony on May 11th at the Sheraton Centre in New York. Master of ceremonies was "Cousin" Bruce Morrow. Among those receiving awards were Mel Allen, Jim Ameche (accepted by his wife, Mary), Jim Jordan (accepted by his son, Jim Jr.), Sidney Slon and Arnold Stang who accepted and award for The Goldbergs), Larry King, Orson Welles (accepted by his daughter, Beatrice), and Jack Benny (accepted by his daughter, Joan). Others in attendance were Arthur Tracy, Lee Allman, Portland Hoffa Allen, Himan Brown, Lon Clark, Barney Beck and Ed Herlihy...**The Golden Radio Buffs** and several of its members had a nice writeup in The Baltimore Sun in February, including their radio display at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway. For information about this club, founded in 1972, and a copy of this article, send a SASE to Owens Pomeroy, 3613 Chestnut Dr., Baltimore, MD 21211.

**CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS:** Don Aston, 1301 No. Park Ave, Inglewood, CA 90302 has 6 more Jack Benny (4/7-5/5/40), several Sgt. Preston of the Yukon, Crime Does Not Pay, The Falcon and others. Don has just revised his catalog (1989). It is 200 pages, filled with everything you are looking for. Most series are in chronological order...**Thom Salome**, 196 Lawrence Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11230; (718) 436-2569 has just purchased 167 episodes of Hop Harrigan from 7/9/47 - 2/6/48. He also negotiating for about 1500 Superman including 32 half-hour shows from 1949 - 1950. The 15-minute shows run from 1940 to 1948 and include over 650 with Batman and Robin. Thom is also purchasing 78 Planet Men. Does anyone know anything about this show? Write or call Thom for information about the new shows. Thom also has 4 glass discs of earlier Hop Harrigan but they broke. Can glass discs be repaired? Contact Thom if they can.

I once mentioned the existence of 4 **Charlie Wild** shows but I can't find the source of the shows. Can anyone help?

**NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES:** **Stephanie Kahn** needs radio programs in Spanish to play for Spanish-speaking residents of senior citizen nursing homes and residences in the New York City area. Stephanie has been to our convention several times and spends much time helping the blind. Write Stephanie at 2-12 West Park Ave, Suite 210, Long Beach, NY 11561 (516) 889-5105...**Paula Dragutsky**, 61 W 62nd St, NYC, NY 10023...**Edwin Rogers**, 6815 No. 14th St, Phoenix, AZ 85014...**Jim Lane**, 1050 Pine Forest Dr., Valdosta, GA 31602. Jim and I go back to 1970...**Jack Roberts**, 516 W. James St. #6, Lancaster, PA 17603 is writing an article called Voices of Terror about classic chiller/suspense series of the 30's and 40's. He is interested in contacting anyone connected with such shows as Inner Sanctum, The Witch's Tale, Lights Out, The Hermit's Cave and The Shadow...**Rodney Haydon**, 1021 Third Ave, Napa, CA 94558...**Joe Szymanowicz**, 8282 Crane Rd, Cranesville, PA 16410. Joe and I go back to 1972...**Connie Billips**, 5111 Palmetto Lane, Fayetteville, NC 28304 is looking for all shows in which Maureen O'Sullivan and Janet Gaynor appeared...**George Roberts**, Via Del Valedor #13027, San Diego, CA 92129...**Francis Rylance**, 18 McKinley Ave, Lawrence, MA 01843...**Tom Hoffer**, Box 171, St. George Island, Eastpoint, FL 32328...**Sam Frank**, 5272 Hollywood Blvd. #9, Los Angeles, CA 90027 is writing a book on Ronald Colman and needs all the information he can find, including copies of all his radio appearances. Sam is especially looking for Handel's Messiah 12/24/54; Los Angeles Salutes the Nation on KFI 1949 and 1950; Double or Nothing from 1951 on NBC; Arch Oboler's Plays, "The Most Dangerous Game;" A Christmas Carol from Monitor 12/23/56, Colman's last dramatic radio appearance.

**OLD FRIENDS:** **Bill Coombs**, 43-B Rich St, Waltham, MA 02154 still looking for Martha Raye material on radio...**Gene Ewan** had a special treat for his World History classes at Overbrook Senior High School in New Jersey. A special presentation of OTR was given on March 21st with several special guests: Gary Hodgson, Lee Allman, Barney Beck and Al Schaffer...**Lee Munsick**, 20 Harriet Dr., Whippany, NJ 07891 is writing a book on Arthur Godfrey and would like all information possible including talent, musicians, network and local shows, video tapes of films...**Ed Carr**, 216 Shaner St, Boyertown, PA 19512 would like to trade



cassettes for a copy of Stephen King's, the Gunslinger, from the Dark Tower (a reading). Ed also has a number of Basin Street discs for trade or sale with spot announcements (\$10 each). Send SASE for list. Also has 300 soap operas for trade (Young Widder Brown, etc.)...**Harlen Hinkley**, 1427 W. American, Freeport, IL 61032 looking for Fibber McGee movies...**Fred Province**, 1647 Enfield St, Spring Valley, CA 92077 looking for Hour of Charm, Beauty Box Theater and The Railroad Hour (reels)...**Jim Blythe**, 941 Redding Rd, Asheboro, NC 27203 has 20 reels of Shadow and wants to trade for more on reel or cassette...**Dom Patrissi**, 93 Augusta Dr., Newington, CT 06111 is looking for someone to dub his reel collection on to cassettes. The person can keep the reel tapes. He has many CBS Radio Mystery Theater...**Bill Bragg's** Yesterday USA Satellite Superstation which has 24 hours of OTR and vintage music is now on 2 places on your satellite dial: SATCOM 4, Transponder 15, 6.2 Audio and SATCOM 4, Transponder 21, 6.2 Audio. It is also on channel 36 of the Irving, Texas cable system...**Karl Stegelman**, 1607 So. Sprott St., Auburn, IN 46706 wants to buy an RCA 19-inch TV in excellent shape...**Joseph Abend**, 870 Seventh Ave., 27th Floor, NYC, NY 10019 wants radio performances by Nelson Eddy, Jeanette MacDonald and Mario Lanza.

**IN FOND MEMORY:** **G. Bennett Larson**, Mar 118, 79; versatile broadcaster and a pioneer in tv and radio news. At one point he was a director for NBC radio (The Ed Wynn Texaco Program, The Rudy Vallee, Fleischmann Yeast Hour)...**Earl Nightingale**, Mar 25, 68; voice of Sky King on radio from 1950-54...**George C. Biggar**, Mar 19, 90; radio pioneer and broadcaster; was the farm and market editor for WLS from 1924 and director of the station's National Barn Dance for many years...**Martin Ragaway**, Apr 20, 66; comedy writer for film, radio and TV (Abbott and Costello, The Milton Berle Show)...**Lucille Ball**, May 26, 77; appeared in many radio shows including My Favorite Husband, various Suspense and Screen Guild Theater...**George Coulouris**, Apr 25, 85; screen and stage actor; original member of the Mercury theater troupe. Appeared in 5 Suspense...**Hannah Goodman**, Jan 19, 78; radio and TV write (The Eternal Light)...**Ann Thomas**, Apr 18, 75; radio stage and TV actress (Bob Burns Show, Easy Aces)...**Helen Wamboldt**, Apr 28, 75; broadcasting executive and singer (Don McNeill Breakfast Club)...**Bob Allen**, Apr 24, 76; singer with the Hal Kemp Orchestra which broadcast over WGN in Chicago in 1933...**Bob Haymes**, Jan 28, 65; composer, broadcaster, actor; composed "That's All" which was used as the theme of Music Till Dawn, a nightly feature hosted by Bob Hall on WCBS for many years...**Johnny Green**, May 15, 80; composer and band leader. Jack Benny's band leader from 1935 - 1937...**Tom Dougall**, May 17, 81; writer and actor (Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston of the Yukon). Tom received an award at our convention in 1985.

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JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 \$10/year



## Recollections of an "Old Time Collector"

by

Ed Corcoran

(This article was written for the October, 1970, issue of Hello Again)

My first efforts began in 1947. At that time I acquired the "New Invention" called a wire recorder. I used my machine to record radio shows while I attended night school. The quality was excellent. Unfortunately the wire could snare and a good spool could easily become a useless mess of tangled wire. All of the wire was eventually lost.

For the next ten years or so I did what almost everybody else did, forget about radio and watched TV. During this time there was a great erosion of dramatic radio programs. Some like Our Miss Brooks and Gunsmoke converted successfully to television. Others like Duffy's Tavern and the Green Hornet lasted only a few months. In 1958 I began to realize that radio drama was doomed. Those reassuring announcements made during June and July that we will be back in the fall weren't being made anymore. The last straw occurred when my favorite program, X-I, was canceled.

Now there were only a handful of shows still left; Amos and Andy, Suspense, Johnny Dollar, and the soap operas. I began recording all these shows using a newly acquired tape recorder. In a matter of months these shows also disappeared.

Dramatic radio was now gone and I missed it. I grew up during the radio era in much the same manner as today's young adults grew up during TV's rise to its present popularity. Perhaps many of you would enjoy seeing some of the early TV efforts again. It occurred to me that there must be other people who felt as I did and perhaps may have recorded some radio programs. After a lot of effort and a greater amount of luck, I was able to locate 3 people with similar interests: Jim Harmon, Jim Moulder and George Jennings. (This was about 1958-59.) All three had already acquired some recordings and we started trading. Between us we had perhaps 100 programs including about 10 X-I and an equal number of Lux Radio Theater. We soon made use of "Special 4th-class" rates and ever popular voice message.

When we started there was no way knowing what shows might be available. There were no catalogs, no collectors who had great numbers of shows. Each new program uncovered was cause for jubilation.

The AFRS was the real break through. Many shows would have been lost forever were it not for this source. Rumors keep circulating that these recordings will all be destroyed. Let's hope that taped copies will survive.

As time went on we started to gain a little momentum. Other collectors started to appear. We all got second machines for proper dubbing. Looking back to these early years, these events stand out:

1. Re-release of "The Shadow" in Chicago. George Jennings found a guy willing to make copies of each show for us.
2. Jim Harmon came up with 2 Lone Rangers. I must have listened to those shows twenty times. They were the only copies then available.
3. I came up with a lean copy of "War of the Worlds" replacing the poorer version then in circulation.
4. Jim Harmon came through with "The Thing on the Fourable Board," my number one want at that time.
5. I made a trip to California and met Lloyd Nesbitt, Morris Dollens and Marty Halperin. During the visit I became an honorary bird-dog for The Hollywood Museum for their radio acquisitions.
6. By now some "Big time" traders were in the field--the most notable being Barry Brooks and Gene Kellenberger.



7. In 1965 I appeared on WTIC in Hartford as a guest, telling all of Connecticut about my hobby.

8. We were able to make a deal with a G I in Germany to get AFRS dubs directly from disc. In return all he wanted was airchecks intact from top forty stations.

Today, of course, the situation is entirely different. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of collectors. The quantity and quality of programs available is overwhelming. It grows with each passing day. My own goals set when I started have been attained, notable acquiring every X-I ever broadcast. It is reassuring to know that even though radio is in a new era, a substantial amount of its Golden Age will be preserved.

As a trader I am now retired and no longer solicit new materials. The culmination of the hobby is that I now do a monthly radio show in which we interview personalities from dramatic radio. I now meet the people behind the voice. the show is geared to please the true radio fan. I hope you all will get to hear it via tape no matter where you live.

EDITOR's NOTES (made in 1970): Ed has between 4000 and 5000 programs. His monthly broadcasts are listed in my catalog, are 50 minutes in length and are taped at the studio. Ed is also mentioned in the acknowledgements of both of Jim Harmon's books.